



JOHNSTON HEALTH

A HEALTHIER TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY

May 26, 2009

Mr. Dexter Matthews
Director
Division of Waste Management
1646 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1646



Re: Solid Waste Transfer Station, Hospital Road, Smithfield, NC

Dear Mr. Matthews:

We have recently learned that the Town of Smithfield has applied to the Division of Waste Management for a permit to operate a Solid Waste Transfer Station on a site located on the north side of Hospital Road in Smithfield, NC. The site, which is zoned O&I, is located in close proximity to Buffalo Creek with a portion of the property lying within the floodway and the entire site being within the 100 year flood zone.

Johnston Health is currently constructing a new hospital tower facing Hospital Road which will serve as the primary entrance to the Medical Center. The entrance is located just east of the proposed Solid Waste Transfer Station. Johnston Health is also developing an 18-bed inpatient and residential hospice facility directly across Hospital Road from the proposed Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Johnston Health strongly objects to the permitting of a waste disposal unit at this location for the following reasons:

1. **Safety Concerns** – Hospital Road is a narrow two-lane secondary road maintained by NCDOT. The paved roadway has minimal shoulders which will limit the ability of emergency vehicles to bypass traffic. Large trash hauling vehicles may impede the passage of emergency traffic. Additionally, the roadway was not constructed for heavy truck traffic which will cause damage to the surface of the roadway. Ingress and egress to the solid waste site will impede the flow of traffic along this road.
2. **Noise Pollution** – The SECU Hospice House of Johnston Health is a facility designed to serve patients and families in the last days of their lives. We located the facility on an 8 acre site adjacent to a cemetery so that noise would be minimized. The solid waste transfer process is noisy as are the trash hauling vehicles. We object to the noise pollution this process will impose at this inpatient and residential hospice facility.
3. **Aesthetics** – Johnston Health is spending \$70 million on a new patient tower in order to update the 58 year old physical plant and to improve access to healthcare services to our growing community. The local community has donated more than \$4.5 million to construct an 18-bed Hospice House. Donors are deeply concerned about the appearance of the entrance to this facility as are all community members since this will be the new entrance to the Medical Center.

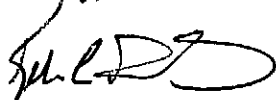
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4. Environmental – Given the proximity to Buffalo Creek and the location of the floodway, there is a potential for pollution of the creek.

For these reasons, we ask that you deny approval of the permit to operate a Solid Waste Transfer Station on Hospital Road.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and concerns. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at 919-938-7114.

Sincerely,



Kevin L. Rogols, FACHE
CEO



Ralph Stewart, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

cc: Coleen Sullins
Director
NC Division of Water Quality
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617